

Commissioned Personnel Center CYBERFLASH



16 November 2012

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Director's Message

As we approach the Thanksgiving holiday, I thought I would leave you with a simple quote to ponder.

“Be kind, for everyone you meet is fighting a harder battle.”

— Plato

I like this quote because it can be reflected on in many ways...it reminds us we do not always know how - or if - other people may be struggling, and to take a moment and consider the appropriateness of our actions towards them. It reminds us to be thankful for what we have, who we are, and to help others because they may be, even without appearing that they are, in need. A gesture of kindness, or a kind word at the right time can mean more to someone than we might realize.

Have a wonderful Thanksgiving!

**CAPT Anne K. Lynch, NOAA
Director, Commissioned Personnel Center**

Shipboard VOIP Phone Lines Not Available Saturday

The OMAO HQ LAN will be shut down between the hours of 9:00 am and 3:00 pm EST, Saturday, November 17th, 2012 in order to complete the required switch migration.

User resources impacted by the maintenance include:

Web Services (Internal and External) - e-Recruit, Virtual Board and OPF Online will not be available.
VOIP Services (HQ and Ships)

Please plan accordingly to accommodate the required maintenance.

ALERT: For Officers & Dependents Who Have Filed SC State Tax Returns Since 1998

CPC recently received the following notice from the NOAA Corps Payroll Unit that may impact **you or your dependents** who have filed tax returns in South Carolina since 1998. The South Carolina Department of Revenue recently reported that a cyber attack on their systems has resulted in the disclosure of approximately 3.6 million Social Security numbers, 387,000 credit and debit card numbers and 657,000 business tax filings. South Carolina Governor Niki Haley said in a statement:

"Anyone who has filed a South Carolina tax return since 1998 is urged to call 1-866-578-5422, then you can determine if you want to have an online or US mail alert mechanism. For the online service, visit protectmyid.com/scdor. For the US Mail service, you will receive notifications via the US mail."

Note: This alert only refers to state tax returns for the state of SC, NOT federal tax returns or any other state tax returns.

BEAR HUNT! - A Joint Service Heritage Seminar

NOAA Science Center and Auditorium, 1301 East-West Hwy, Silver Spring, Maryland on Tuesday, December 18, 2012 - 0930-1200

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Vice Admiral John P. Currier, USCG
Vice Commandant, United States Coast Guard

Seminar presentations will discuss historical collaborations between the predecessor agencies of the USCG and NOAA aboard the BEAR, the maritime and cultural significance of the BEAR, and the current effort to search for and eventually explore the wreck of the BEAR.

Register by Wednesday, November 21, 2012 to reserve your seat, seating is limited! Registration is open to all Military, Civilian, and Contractor/Associate personnel of each organization

Uniform of the Day – Service Khaki or equivalent

[Register Online](#), or RSVP to LCDR Eric Johnson, 301-713-7727, Eric.T.Johnson@noaa.gov, or Mr. Roger Fuller, 202-372-2478, Roger.A.Fuller@uscg.mil

Important Request From NOFA - Help Us Help You! :

NOAA Officers Family Association (NOFA) would like to request that you take a moment to update your contact information listed on our web site - www.nofaweb.org. This listing helps us - help you - connect you to the NOAA Community in your area. Manual requests can be made via the web site - please [login](#) to change your member area, or click on [Contact Form](#) to register with your local NOFA Club. Thank you!

Also - a reminder about the **DC area NOFA Holiday Party - December 1st**. If you did not receive an invite, please go to the website and click the contact form.

Payroll Unit Updates

Thrift Savings Plan

The ceiling on contributions to the Thrift Savings Plan will change in 2013. A maximum of \$17,500 annually may be contributed by members less than age 50. \$23,000 may be contributed by members age 50 or older.

For more information, see <https://www.tsp.gov/whatsnew/rates/currentLimitsAndRates.shtml>

If you are age 50 or older and making additional TSP catch up contributions, remember catch up contributions must be renewed each calendar year.

Catch-up elections are made on Form [TSP-U-1-C](#) -- Please note, when completing Section II, Line 7 of the form that 'Pay Period' is the amount to be deducted per month, not per payday.

Catch-up contributions are separate from regular contributions, but are combined with regular contributions on the W-2.

Catch-up contributions are in whole dollar amounts (versus a percentage) and are a deduction from basic pay.

Elections for catch-up contributions expire on 31 December of each year.

Officers who desire to initially enroll in TSP, disenroll from TSP, or elect the TSP Catch-Up program must complete the applicable [TSP-U-1](#) (to enroll) / [TSP-U-1-C](#) form (form for catchup contributions)

Update Addresses in HR Direct Access

Officers are reminded to go into HR Direct Access ([PeopleSoft](#)) and update their addresses in preparation for tax season.

2012 W-2s will be sent out in January 2013. **Note: W-2s are sent to your mailing address NOT your home address.** If this address is incorrect, refer to the Address update procedure in the [Direct Access Online Help](#).

National ACO Scholarships - Call for Applications

The Executive Committee of National ACO Scholarships, Inc. has issued its annual call to high school seniors and college undergrads for applications for scholarship awards for the 2013/2014 academic year. The two-page application form is available on the "Resources" page of the NOAA Officer Family Association website (www.nofaweb.org), under the heading

“National ACO Scholarships, Inc.” Application forms may also be obtained by contacting Secretary/Treasurer Captain Dave Peterson, NOAA (Ret), by phone (301-921-6357) or email (kmpdhp@comcast.net). Complete application packages should be sent to the corporation’s post office address (on the application form) and should be postmarked this year no later than Friday, **April 15, 2013**.

Veterans Day - Honoring All Who Serve



On November 11, 2012, LT Wendy Lewis (second from left) joined the National Association for Uniformed Services in presenting a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknowns. This was the first time a NOAA Corps officer had the honor of laying a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknowns during the National Veterans Day Observance. Well done, LT Lewis!

On the Horizon

XO Seminar	3-7 December 2012
BEAR Hunt - Joint Services Seminar	18 December 2012
BOTC 120 - Graduation	21 December 2012
CO Seminar	7-11 January 2013
BOTC 121 -Starts	10 January 2013
Mid-Grade Leadership Training	28 January- 8 February 2013

Approved Resignations, Separations, and Retirements

The following officers have approved retirements, resignations, or separations with in the **next three months**. Be sure to thank them for their service to NOAA and nation.

LTJG Johannes A. Gebauer	19 November 2012
LTJG Glen A. Rice	11 January 2013
CDR Karl F. Mangels	01 February 2013